

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SS-20

NSC-10 L-03 H-03 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /107 W

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P R 111144Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8402

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 14512

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IN

SUBJ: CIVAIR: FUEL SHORTAGES

REF: (A) STATE 221740 (B) NEW DELHI 13491

1. ACCORDING TO PAN AM (REPPUN) DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION (RAMAMRITHAM) DECEMBER 10 CALLED MEETING OF AIR CARRIERS TO INFORM THEM MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM WANTS TO CUT FUEL UPLIFT FROM INDIA BY 30 PERCENT. AIRLINES POINTED OUT THAT CUT OF SUCH MAGNITUDE WOULD INEVITABLY INVOLVE REDUCED SCHEDULES AND SAID THAT CURRENTLY HEAVY OUTBOUND FRIEGHT BOOKINGS AND HENCE EXPORTS WOULD BE AFFECTED. THEY ASKED WHETHER MINISTRY'S INTENT IS TO CUT FLIGHTS. DGCA SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER AIRLINES WOULD BE ASKED TO CUT FLIGHTS, BUT WOULD CHECK FURTHER WITH PETROLEUM MINISTRY.

2. ASKED FOR THE REASON FOR FUEL UPLIFT CUT WHEN VIRTUALLY ALL SUPPLIERS REPORT ADEQUATE STOCKS ON HAND, RAMAMRITHAM SAID HE SUPPOSED

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REASON IS DESIRE TO CUT FOREIGN EXCHANGE EXPENDITURE ON INCREASINGLY EXPENSIVE PETROLEUM IMPORTS. FOREIGN CARRIERS POINTED OUT THAT THEIR PURCHASES ARE FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

3. DGCA PLANNING ANOTHER MEETING OF CARRIER REPRESENTATIVES DECEMBER 13, PRESUMABLY TO PRESENT RESULTS OF FURTHER GOVERNMENT DELIBERATIONS. MEANWHILE SCHEDULED CARRIERS ARE CONTINUING UNLIMITED FUEL UPLIFT, ALTHOUGH MANY HAVE ALREADY CUT UPLIFT IN INDIA TO A MINIMUM BECAUSE OF HIGH PRICES.

4. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, DGCA HAS ISSUED NOTAMS NOVEMBER 17 AND DECEMBER 6 ON AVIATION FUEL. FORMER REQUESTS ALL OPERATORS TO "UPLIFT FUEL TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE OUTSIDE INDIA" OWING TO "SHORTAGE OF AVIATION TURBINE FUEL." DECEMBER 6 MESSAGE STATES THAT INTERNATIONAL NON-SCHEDULED FLIGHTS WILL RECEIVE ONLY "ABSOLUTE MINIMUM FUEL TO REACH NEXT NEAREST AVAILABLE AIRPORT OUTSIDE INDIA." NON-SCHEDULED FLIGHT CLEARANCE REQUESTS ARE TO INCLUDE FUEL REQUIREMENTS AND DGCA INSPECTION OFFICES WILL CONTROL QUANTITY OF FUEL DISPENSED. MOYNIHAN

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